AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17. (cancelled)

18. (new) A process for obtaining mutated *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) strains for producing predetermined exogenous recombinant polypeptides (or proteins), said process comprising the mutation by the substitution or deletion of one or several nucleotides from the region of the gene coding for C-terminal portion of RNase E, the mutation corresponding to the substitution of the guanine G at position 2196 of SEQ ID NO:1, by a thymidine T, so as to create a stop codon TAA situated at the positions 2196 to 2198 of SEQ ID NO: 1 being excluded, and the selection of *E. coli* strains thus mutated expressing recombinant exogenous polypeptides with higher yields with respect to the expression yields of those recombinant polypeptides by *E. coli* strains not comprising said mutation.

19. (new) The process according to claim 18, wherein the mutation corresponds to the substitution or deletion of one or several nucleotides from the region delimited by the nucleotide situated at position 1935, or at position 2196, and the nucleotide situated at position 3623 of the DNA sequence coding the RNase E represented by SEQ ID NO: 1.

20. (new) The process according to claim 18, wherein the mutation causes modification or deletion of at least one amino acid from the C-terminal portion of the RNase E.

21. (new) The process according to claim 20, wherein the mutation causes the deletion of at least one, up to all, of the last 562 amino acids of the sequence of RNase E represented by SEQ ID NO: 2.

22. (new) The process according to claim 18, wherein the mutated *E. coli* strains contain an exogenous inducible expression system, under the control of which is placed the expression of the predetermined recombinant polypeptides, especially the expression system using RNA polymerase of the T7 bacteriophage.

23. (new) A mutated *E. coli* strain expressing a predetermined exogenous recombinant polypeptide whose gene coding RNase E comprises a mutation consisting in the substitution or deletion of one or several nucleotides from the region of the gene coding for the C-terminal portion of RNase E, said mutation being such that the enzyme produced upon expression of this mutated gene no longer possesses activity for degradation of m-RNA, this mutation not significantly affecting growth of the said *E. coli* strains, the *E. coli* strains with the mutation corresponding to the substitution of the guanine G at position 2196 of SEQ ID NO:1, by a thymidine T, so as to create a stop codon TAA situated at the positions 2196 to 2198 of SEQ ID NO: 1 being excluded.

24. (new) The mutated *E. coli* strain according to claim 23, transformed such that it contains an exogenous inducible expression system, and whose gene coding RNase E comprises a mutation so that the enzyme produced upon expression of this mutated gene conserves the activity for maturation of r-RNA of the RNase E, but no longer possesses activity of this latter for degradation of m-RNA.

25. (new) The mutated *E. coli* strain according to claim 23, wherein the inducible expression system uses RNA polymerase of the T7 bacteriophage.

26. (new) The mutated *E. coli* strain according to claim 23, wherein the mutation corresponds to the substitution or deletion of one or several nucleotides at the region delimited by the nucleotide situated at position 1935, or at position 2196, and the nucleotide situated at position 3623 of the DNA sequence coding the RNase E represented by SEQ ID NO: 1.

27. (new) The mutated *E. coli* strain according to claim 23, wherein the mutation causes the modification or deletion of at least one amino acid from the C-terminal portion of the RNase E.

28. (new) The mutated *E. coli* strain according to claim 23, wherein the mutation causes the deletion of at least one, up to all, of the last 562 amino acids of the sequence of RNase E represented by SEQ ID NO:2.

29. (new) A process for producing predetermined recombinant polypeptides, comprising:

- transforming *E. coli* strains as obtained in the process defined in claim 18, with a vector, containing the nucleotide sequence coding one or several recombinant polypeptides,

- culturing the transformed *E. coli* strains obtained in the preceding step, for a time sufficient to permit expression of the recombinant polypeptide or polypeptides in the *E. coli* cells,

- and recovery of the recombinant polypeptide or polypeptides produced during the preceding step, optionally after purification of these latter.

30. (new) The process for producing predetermined recombinant polypeptides according to claim 29, comprising:

- transforming mutated *E. coli* strains, with a vector, containing the nucleotide sequence coding one or several recombinant polypeptides, so as to obtain mutated *E. coli* strains, in which transcription of the said nucleotide sequence coding one or several recombinant polypeptides is placed under control of an inducible expression system,

- culturing the transformed *E. coli* strains obtained during the preceding step, and inducing the said expression system, for a time sufficient to permit expression of the recombinant polypeptide or polypeptides in the *E. coli* cells,

- and recovering the recombinant polypeptide or polypeptides produced during the preceding step, and

wherein said mutated *E. coli* strain expressing a predetermined exogenous recombinant polypeptide whose gene coding RNase E comprises a mutation consisting in the substitution or deletion of one or several nucleotides from the region of the gene coding for the C-terminal portion of RNase E, said mutation being such that the enzyme produced upon expression of this mutated gene no longer possesses activity for degradation of m-RNA, this mutation not significantly affecting growth of the said *E. coli* strains, the *E. coli* strains with the mutation corresponding to the substitution of the guanine G at position 2196 of SEQ ID NO:1, by a thymidine T, so as to create a stop codon TAA situated at the positions 2196 to 2198 of SEQ ID NO: 1 being excluded.

31. (new) A mutated *E. coli* strain produced by a process for obtaining mutated *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) strains for producing predetermined exogenous recombinant polypeptides (or proteins), said process comprising the mutation by the substitution or deletion of one or several nucleotides from the region of the gene coding for C-terminal portion of RNase E, the mutation corresponding to the substitution of the guanine G at position 2196 of SEQ ID NO:1, by a thymidine T, so as to create a stop codon TAA situated at the positions 2196 to 2198 of SEQ ID NO: 1 being excluded, and the selection of *E. coli* strains thus mutated expressing recombinant exogenous polypeptides with higher yields with respect to the expression yields of those recombinant polypeptides by *E. coli* strains not comprising said mutation.